

International Relations - Paper I

(Subjective Part)

- Answer no. 4B

Introduction

Use formal expressions

Once upon a time mainstream International Relation was dominated by two paradigms - Liberalism/Idealism and Realism - but as the international society became more complex another major paradigm (by getting insights from the sociology) social constructivism emerged in the International Relations. While IR is currently dominated by Realism, still liberalism and constructivism offer valuable insights on understanding the behavior of different actors in the international arena.

Three major Paradigms of International Theory

1. Realism: Dominated Theory in IR

Emergence:

Realism emerged with the major work of Thucydides; "History of Peloponnesian War" between Athens and Sparta, where he famously said; Strong does what he can and weak must accept it.

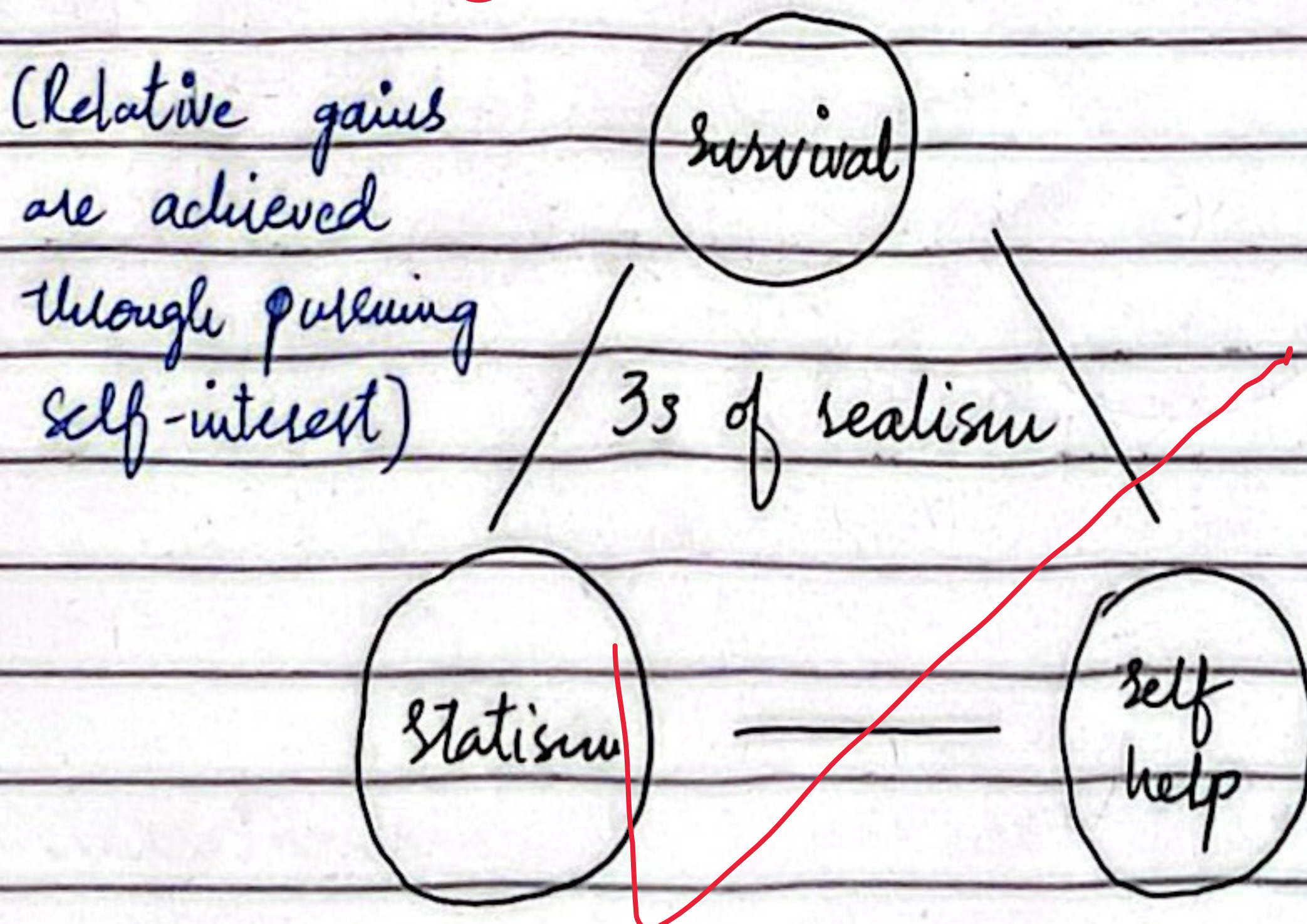
Structural realism:

Structural realism/Neo-realism has emerged by taking insights from the work of J.J Rousseau

who blamed anarchic nature rather than criticizing human nature. In similar way, structural realist argue about anarchic nature which means there is no superior/control authority above states.

Realism as explanatory variable for various on going conflict in international relations

Hans. J. Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz are two major realist who have explained the behavior of states in terms of offensive and defensive realism because for them state is the only main actor in international politics.



(Basic postulates of Realist theory)

Realism in the context of Conflicts.

(a). Conflict in the Middle East

In context of middle eastern conflicts, Realism believes that state are the rational actors and they are either acting as defensive (security maximizer) and Offensive

Explain with different headings

(power maximizer) In that context, we can see that Israel's unproportional response to Hamas attack is the clear example of offensive realism where an actor is deliberately destroying an enemy to achieve more relative power. But, in the context of US, it can be seen as defensive realism, as without any direct threat to sovereignty of US, it is trying to maximize its security and achieve its interest - even at the cost of killing people. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once said,

"State's biggest goal is its continuation and this goal can never be compromised"

(US Sec Henry Kissinger)

2. Idealism/liberalism: Explanation in the context of ongoing-cooperation

Emergence

Idealism emerged during the Era of enlightenment, when thinkers like John Locke or Adam Smith told about inherent rights (of life, property, liberty) and about the free market economy respectively.

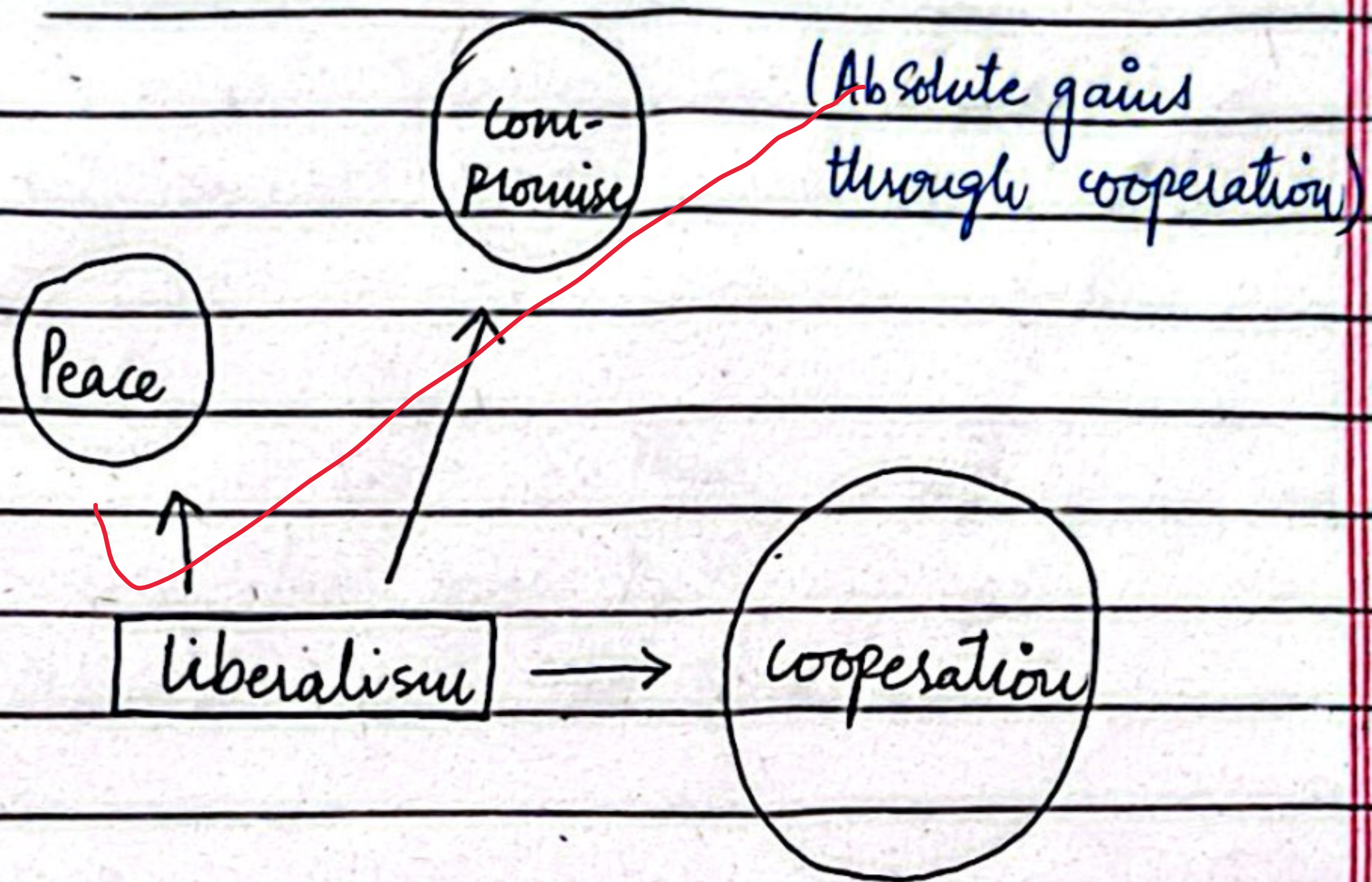
Main Postulates

liberalism/Idealism believes that human nature is not bad and cooperation

between them is absolutely possible

Neo liberal institutionalism in the context of cooperation

Neo-liberal institutionalism championed by Robert Keohane expands liberal paradigm by including International organizations into the field of IR as main actor.



(Major themes of liberal Paradigm)

a. NATO: A Prime Example of cooperation over security

Liberal Institutionalists believe that states do not always rely on Statism, self-help, sometimes they rely on each other for their enhanced cooperation. Therefore, NATO - a military alliance - was created on a principle of security. Neo-liberals acknowledge the anarchic nature of world politics but they believe it can be sorted out through cooperation.

o. COPs and Climate Regime

Robert Keohane believes that International organizations are helpful because;

- i. They reduce transaction cost
- ii. Monitor agreements of cooperation

Therefore, neo-liberal believes contrary to the realists (90s are a puppet of muscular states), they believe that some threats are unconventional like climate change or global terrorism etc. To tackle these unprecedented challenge states cannot solely rely on themselves because;

"Climate does not care about borders"

That's why, COPs and overall climate regime are huge example of why IOs are absolutely vital to achieve cooperation which was otherwise not possible. For Example, in COP 29, Azerbaijan Baku - developed states have pledge 300\$ billion dollars and showed their collective concern for the risk.

3. Social Constructivism: A new Paradigm in IR

Social constructivism largely deals

with explaining the sociological behaviours. According to them, all the reality is socially constructed. For instance, identities are formed on the basis of knowledge and an entity usually acquires this knowledge from the culture.

Social constructivism in the context of ongoing conflicts and cooperation

Unlike mainstream IR, social constructivist believes that Realist and liberalist have themselves gave meaning to things and there is no objective reality (i.e. anarchic nature or chances of cooperation). Everything is subjective to our knowledge and what perception is created by a state depending upon the identity of other. Social constructivism does not give a different theory altogether, rather it gives a different perspective for looking at IRs.

(a). Constructivism in the context of Russia-Ukraine war.

For realists (like Putin), there is no central authority to mitigate the risk on its national security, therefore, in order to secure state (Russia/Ukraine) has to rely on self-help. Since there is anarchy, states really do not have much choice. Constructivist like Alexander Wendt in his famous work; "Anarchy is what

states make of it" highlights that (there is anarchy in IR) is a socially constructed phenomenon which has no objectivity.

Conclusion

While the IR is still dominated by Realism, is anarchy a real phenomenon or not is still under debate between Realist and Social constructivist. But, one thing is certain that cooperation between states should flourish as championed by liberalist.

— Answer no. 6 B —

Introduction

Champions of liberal internationalism and free market are reverting back to the protectionist model of international political economy which highlights that future of Global politics is largely going to revolve around pursuing their self interest in terms of economy.

Concept of Protectionism

The concept of protectionism is in complete contrast to the Free Market economy

as championed by Adam Smith. It calls for looking-inward kind of approach, meaning protecting self interest in terms of economy, politics and strategy. Unlike free market, it include tariffs and taxes or in simpler words restrictions on imports, especially from the rival country.

Principles of Protectionism

Following are the Principles of Protectionist economy in International Political Economy :

(a). Trade Tariffs

Protectionist model calls for higher import duties on rival countries.

(b). Protecting local economy and Business

Another main principle of protectionism is to protect local economy by interfering. For instance, Adam Smith rejected the involvement of government role in economy and introduced the concept of invisible hand. In simple words, free market is self regulatory, contrary to this believe, Protectionist (A right wing political group) holds that government should intervene and provide competitive and comparative advantage to local manufacturers by giving them tax exemption to boost exports of the country.

(c). Protecting local jobs and restrictions on immigration

Protectionist model has evolved over time with strict stance on immigration, citing that immigrants take local jobs which weakens the state internally. Therefore, they have tougher stance on protecting local jobs from immigrants.

Commenting on the resurfacing of protectionist model in Global Politics

(Especially with regards to prospective Trade war scenarios)

(a). EU trade war with China

China which has emerged as the 2nd biggest economy is very difficult to digest for the European nations. China has become largest manufacturer of solar panels as well as Electrical vehicles. EU has been left behind due to free market economy and therefore to protect self-interest, they have imposed huge tariffs on Chinese exports to Europe. Critics argue that once the champion of free market economy have themselves backdoor from it due to lack of their comparative advantage.

(b). EU sanctions on Russia

Due to ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict, heavy trade restrictions have been imposed on Russia. EU which was once enjoying the cheap Russian Natural Gas due to trade liberalization is now fallen into its own trap. The point here highlights that states in order to protect their national interest can take protectionist stance.

(c). Trump's MAGA campaign and coming back to white has huge implications for EU and the China.

Trump who has recently won American presidential election championed "Make America Great Again" has very simple principles, including trade tariffs on EU and China.

o. Stance on EU

Donald Trump believes that European manufactures imports from US is way less than the imports of US from EU. Therefore, recently Trump has signal to increase trade tariffs about 10-20% on EU goods.

o. Stance on China

Trump put serious allegations on China

for unfair trade practices. He accuses China for intellectual Property theft as well as unfairly incentivizing of Chinese business by Chinese government, which makes US products less competitive and appealing. Therefore, Trump has decided to continue its trade war policy from its previous term and also increase it about (100 - 200 %). The China has bigger challenge than US, because its goods are consumed more by American people, than American goods by Chinese.

o. Donald Trumps comment on WTO and withdrawal from TPP.

Trump is very skeptical about the WTO - World Trade Organization (created with the intention to liberalize world trade). He believes that it serves no purpose rather it is benefitting China more than the US.

Similarly, his withdrawal from TPP shows his love for bilateralism and protectionist model of economy.

At one instance, Donald Trump said;

"It is the single most pathetic deal done by the America"

Conclusion

Link specifically with Trade war
Include facts and events of that
war

In conclusion, when states feel insecure about their economic security they usually revert back to the protectionist model as US and China has entangled themselves into a trade war. To which Graham Allison has rightly pointed in his major work;

"War is inevitable: Can US and China escape Thucydides Trap?"

(Graham Allison)

~~Answer no 7 B~~

Introduction

Despite promising future of globalization, Populist Nationalism and far-right parties are back into the geo-politics more vocal than ever. With the advent of communication technologies the world quickly became globalized and was rightly depicted as;

"World has become a global village"

But, due to many failures and sides of globalizations, states are looking for

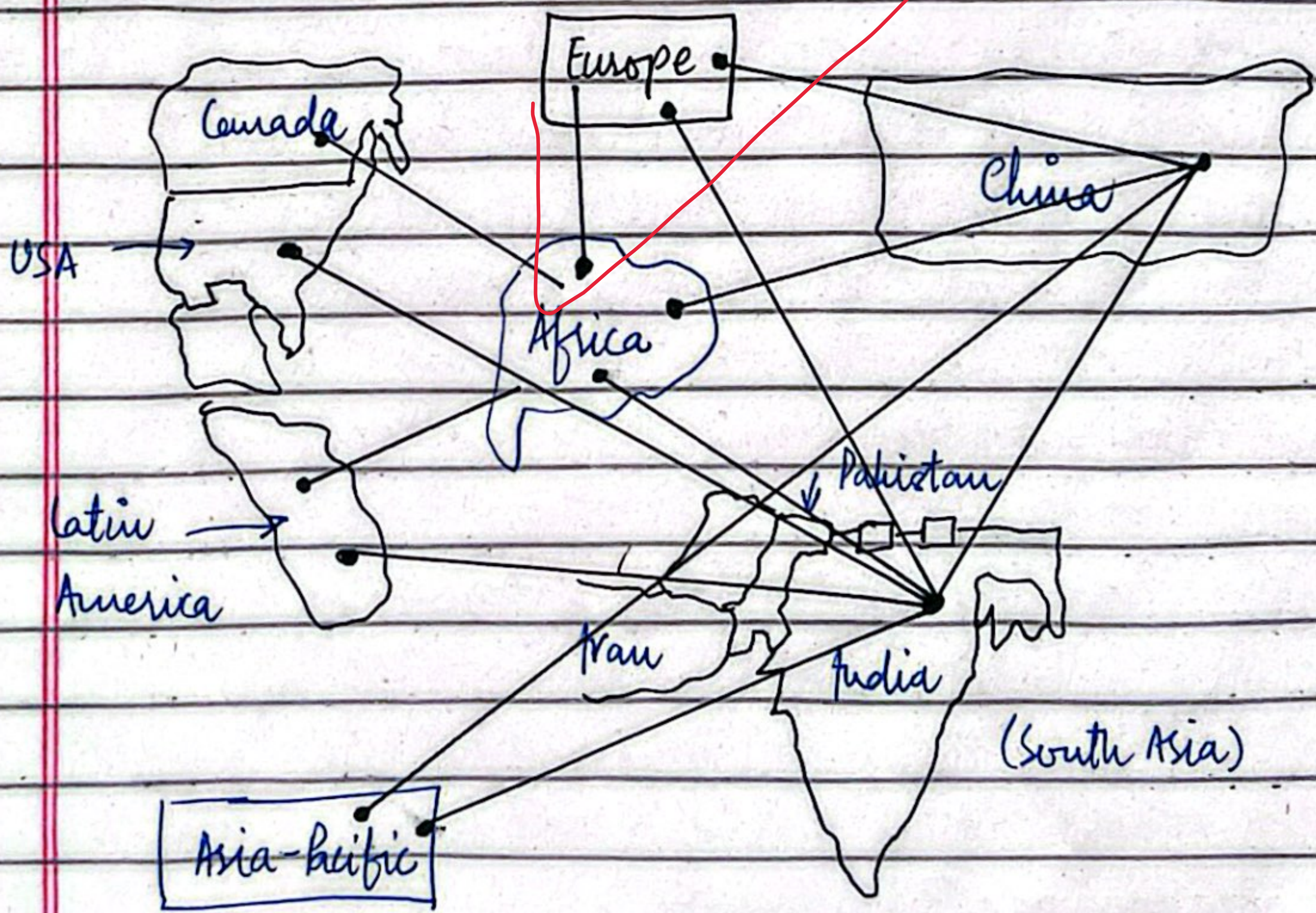
more inward approach

Comparing and Contrasting the Concepts of Nationalism and Globalization.

Globalization

A smartphone manufactured by Apple or Samsung is the most practical example of Globalization. To start with, Globalization means;

“Interconnectedness and Interdependence of the world”



(Map highlighting how much the world has become interdependent due to Globalization)

Globalization accepts the idea of free market and if we come back to the example of smartphone, we see on the back that an Apple Iphone is designed in California, but assembled in China, Vietnam or even India now. The company based in US explore global markets for cheap labour as well look for countries where there is ease of doing business to maximize their profits.

Nationalism

Nationalism is completely different approach which calls for putting nation first. Even though there is advantage in doing business outside the country, still it should be made in the origin country. While, globalization has given arise to global culture which has almost erased national identities. Countries around the world are seen to be reverting to Nationalism. Nationalism can be defined as;

"Having a collective sense of identity and working together towards a similar goal of strengthening national image"

Discuss both under one headings

Analysing which approach seems to be winning through real-life examples:

(a). Populist Nationalism (EU and US) VS Globalism.

Donald Trump - a businessman by profession - have shown its great dis-interest in multilateralism to such extent that people call him; Threat to Globalism. In his MAGA campaign, he vows to build America great again by promoting populist nationalism. For instance, whether it is manifested in the form of erecting a wall on Mexican border or imposing trade duties on China.

Similarly, Far-right political parties have seen to resurfaced in European Union who are promoting Populist nationalist Agenda by instilling fear in public through anti-immigrant slogans or hate speeches. BREXIT seems to be the biggest example of the defeat of Globalism because people of British were unsatisfied with the trade liberalisation in EU as it has had no significant or direct impact on their economic status.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that free market economy and

globalization has given great opportunities to emerging economies like India or China which would have not been possible otherwise. Despite having many consequences, globalization and liberalization is supported by the beneficiaries.

(b) - Picking a Winner: Nationalism or Globalization?

This was the asked part
Elaborate with multiple headings

While there is no clear winner in both cases, as Nationalists claim that Globalization has unable to bridge the gap between rich and poor and the global debt has significantly reached upto 100\$ trillion whereas Globalism has such become entrenched in our life that reverting back to Nationalism and Bilateralism is close to impossible.

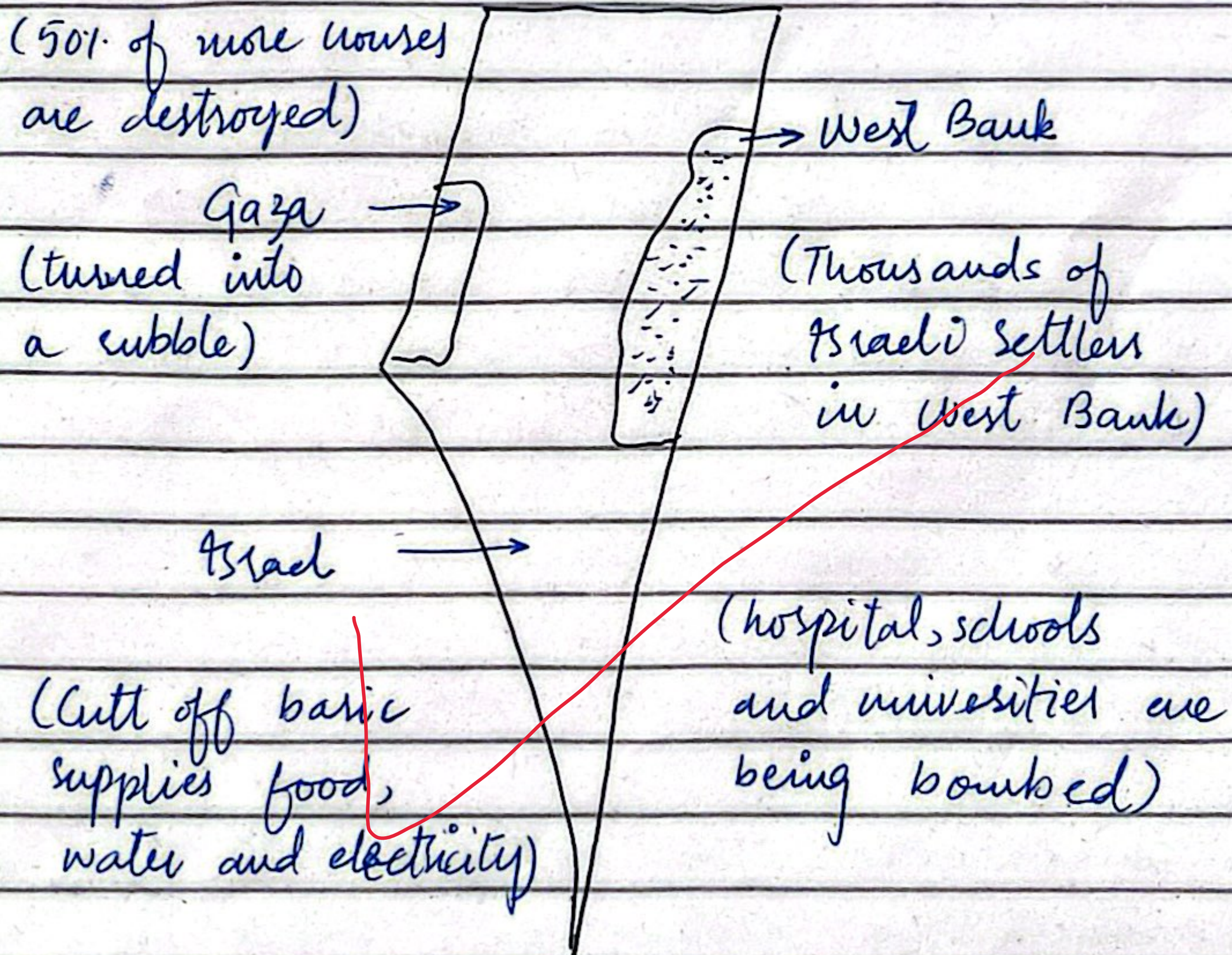
Conclusion

States needs to realize that reverting back to same ideology of Nationalism which has triggered conflicts like WWI or WWII is not sustainable. At the same time, Globalization is not perfect either it has increased unconventional security threats, and global inequality. Therefore, states must look together to find an alternative.

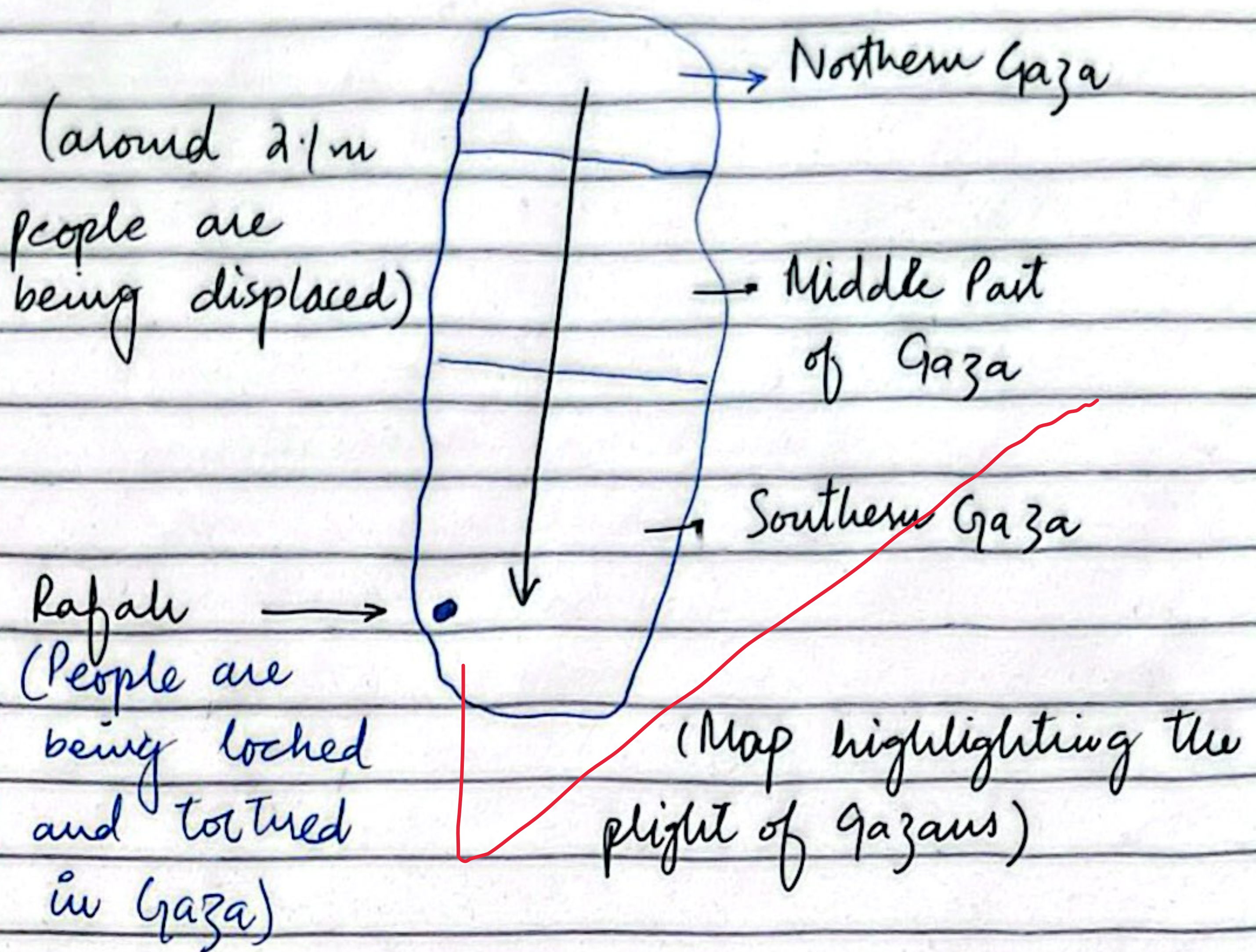
Exam no. 8 B

Introduction

In the midst of Gaza Crises, the relevance of International Humanitarian law has become more than ever. The Gaza crisis started on October 7th when Hamas launched an attack killing almost 1200 Israelis. Since then, Israel has wreaked havoc on the people of Gaza by unproportionately killing around 45000 innocent children, women and elderly.



(An overview of Gaza Crises is highlighted in the map)



Relevance of International Humanitarian Law in Gaza Crisis

International Humanitarian Law regime has two basic postulates and third recently emerging calling for the post war scenario of conflict ridden zone. These postulates are as follows;

- - Jus ad Bellum
- - Jus in Bellum
- - Jus Post Bellum

Discuss different laws

In simple words, these postulates call for Just reason for starting war, Justice in war and justice after the war. International Humanitarian Law is also used as Just War Theory interchangeably.

(a). Justice before War

This postulate calls for a just reason to start a war. According to Just war theory, an act of war can only be done if there is serious threat to national security or to put it more accurately, for defensive purposes only. While the Israel was able to justify its war on Hamas, but it has failed to comply to the remaining part of international humanitarian law.

(b). Justice in War

Just war theory, further highlights that if a war has become inevitable, then it should be proportionate to the damage done to a state. Moreover, IHL make clear distinctions between sick and wounded, prisoners of war, and combatants and non-combatants.

Unfortunately, Israel has not complied to any of the principles of (Justice in war)

(c). Justice After War

This postulate calls for the reconstruction of the war-torn region in good faith. A newly emerged theme in 'Just war theory'. But, despite serious lobbying for a two-state solution, Israel is relentless in turning Gaza into rubble. A report showed it will take many billion dollars

to reconstruct Gaza (Who is going to pay for it?) and more than 5 years to bring to its existing stage.

Measures for Pacific Settlement based on functionalist perspective

- Incremental Approach (Mentioned in Biden three Phased ceasefire plan)

According to functionalist, cooperation or dispute settlement should start at the lowest possible level and it should be incremental to achieve sustainable peace.

Therefore, first of all there should be immediate ceasefire. Secondly, release of hostages from Hamas and Palestinian prisoners from Israel to establish trust between them. Thirdly, ensuring permanent ceasefire and start of discussion for the post-war recovery of Gaza and future Israel-Palestine problem. Fourthly, withdrawal of Israeli settlers from West bank and formation of two states based on status quo. Finally, the recognition of sovereignty of both states and establishment of relations at low-level politics, which will eventually lead to cooperation at higher level politics (such as security and economy)

Conclusion

The people of Gaza has suffered a lot and the recent crises will remain as a stain on the conscience of international community for long time. Therefore, Israel must relies its bloody campaign and start respecting international law before its too late.

Your answer is imbalance
Discuss your paper in
tutorial

General Instructions for attaining good marks in International Relations

Add IR theories and approaches as much as you can

use IR jargons to differentiate it from Current affairs paper

try reflecting IR concepts or words in your heading

no need to apply all theories in one question but one or two that may Justify your arguments

Justify your arguments with at least 8-9 headings

Add current developments as an examples to support arguments

add IR philosophers e.g. Morganthue, Mearcheimer etc and their philosophies

add graphs charts and critical analysis for bonus marks

each question has 2 or 3 parts, give equal weitage to all parts